

IV. SOCIOLOGICAL AND GENERAL.

Nationality in Modern History. By J. Holland Rose, Litt. D. Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, etc. New York, The Macmillan Co., 1916. \$1.25 net.

The present situation in Europe, which inspired this work, is evidence of its timeliness. And the author discusses the topic in a more judicial spirit than might have been expected under the circumstances. There are not wanting indications of his anti-German feeling; but it does not influence the discussion enough to detract very seriously from its scientific value.

In attempting to define and account for the peculiar group-consciousness which is called nationality, the author pursues, first, the method of exclusion; and finds that it is not due to racial unity nor to common language nor to a common religion,—though each of these is a strong tie. In this negative part of his argument he is clear and convincing. He does not seem to be quite so clear or convincing when he undertakes to define positively and to account for national feeling. He speaks of it as an instinct; but is evidently wrong in that, since the present national groupings originated in comparatively recent times. Again he refers it to community of "culture," but are not language and religion essential and important elements of a people's "culture"? He is nearer the truth when he finds its historic genesis, in part, in the long opposition of political groups which originated in what may be termed the accidents of history.

But if the author's definition and explanation of this great fact of national feeling are not altogether satisfactory, it should be said that he has made in this book a notable contribution to the better comprehension of one of the most important facts of present day life—and one that challenges most serious thought.

C. S. GARDNER.

Rest Days—A Study in Early Law and Morality. By Hatton Webster, Ph.D., Professor of Social Anthropology in the University of Nebraska. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1916 325 pp. \$3.00 net.

The theory of this book is that "rest days" have their origin in the *taboos* of primitive society. The *taboo* is an outgrowth of the primitive man's way of thinking. Some things come to be potent for weal or woe in the life of man; they are felt to be mysterious, abnormal, uncanny, awful. "Primitive psychology, refining these ideas and applying them to different classes of phenomena, produces the cognate notions of pollution and sanctity. * * * These characteristics are easily regarded as infections, capable of transmission, not alone by contact, but also by sight and mere proximity." Hence arise certain prohibitions of human conduct with reference to these things—*taboos*.

All the socially recognized and enjoined "rest days" are accounted for by our author as having such an origin. Among these he includes the Jewish Sabbath, which he supposes was at first connected with the changing phases of the moon, and was only gradually detached from the lunar periods.

In all backward societies the number of those tabooed days—on which work is forbidden—is very great, so great as to constitute a serious check upon economic and social development. The author, however, recognizes the great social value of the Jewish and Christian Sabbath. Gradually the mysterious and awful associations which gather around these days die away. They become "secularized," and the useless ones are eliminated.

Such, in brief outline, is the theory. Whatever one may think of it, Prof. Webster has adduced a great wealth of material in its support; and in this respect, if in no other, the book is valuable.

C. S. GARDNER.

The Social Ideals of the Lord's Prayer. By Perry J. Stackhouse, Pastor Tabernacle Baptist Church, Utica, New York. Philadelphia: The Griffith & Rowland Press, 1916. 167 pp.

A healthful book. Out of this wonderful Prayer which Jesus taught his disciples the author draws the "social Gospel" in its fullness, and does it in a convincing way. After some critical matters are disposed of—such as the two forms of the prayer given in Luke and Matthew, and the questions as to the scope